

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 24**

### **URGING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM ON USING PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE AS PART OF A CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY**

**WHEREAS**, according to 2017 Justice Department statistics the City of St. Louis leads the nation in homicides at a rate of 66.1 murders per 100,000 people, and the various costs of these crimes to the City and the community is significant; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement agencies across the United States are exploring the use of aerial systems as a crime reduction strategy, and to assist with a multitude of policing tasks such as accident and crime scene investigations, search-and-rescue efforts, and oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of their crime reduction strategies many such agencies are also exploring “persistent surveillance”; the use of photographic systems that cover large areas simultaneously over extended periods of time, using aircraft and high vantage points such as buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, this technology has shown great potential as a cost-effective tool for broadening crime related information gathering and providing critical leads for investigators without increasing staff and the workloads of existing personnel, and mitigating the potential harms to personnel associated with gathering such information in the field; and

**WHEREAS**, persistent surveillance also provides oversight for law enforcement agencies by identifying potential police misconduct, providing an unbiased “witness” in the form of photographic and video evidence, and by allowing investigators to identify and approach potential witnesses to misconduct with information to start discussion away from the scene.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we urge the Mayor and Director of Public Safety, with the cooperation and input of the City of St. Louis Division of Police Realtime Crime Center, to open discussions with The Dr. Ross McNutt – Community Support Program to explore how the use of persistent surveillance might be employed as a part of the City’s crime reduction strategy in compliance with City’s Surveillance Technology Use Report Policy requirements to ensure the privacy of community member’s is protected.

**Introduced this 2nd day of July, 2020 by:**  
**The Honorable Thomas Oldenburg, Alderman 16<sup>th</sup> Ward**

**Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of July, 2020 as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**